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Natick Fire Electrical

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Natick Fire Chief James A. Sheridan announced their joint investigation into last night's fire at 18-20 Pond Street in Natick has concluded the fire was due to an electrical malfunction. The property housed five businesses.

Coan said, "Investigators determined the fire started between the basement ceiling and the first floor inside the laundry. The only heat source in the area of origin was electricity."

Chief Sheridan said, "The fire was discovered by a Natick police officer on routine patrol. While it is tragic to lose five businesses in these economic times, we are fortunate that no one was injured." It is estimated that the fire caused \$1.5 million in property loss.

Members of the Natick Fire Department, Natick Police Department, state police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal and agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms, Tobacco and Explosives (ATF), jointly investigated the fire. The ATF joins the team for every large commercial fire investigation.

There were 579 structure fires caused by electrical problems in Massachusetts in 2006 reported to the Mass. Fire Incident Reporting System. These fires also caused four civilian deaths, 75 civilian injuries, 92 service injuries and an estimated dollar loss of \$26.2 million dollars. The average loss per fire was \$45,248.

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